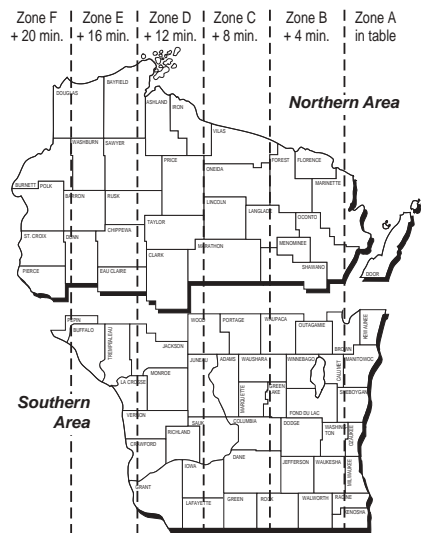


Hunting Hours

To determine the opening (A.M.) and closing (P.M.) times for all zones, add the minutes shown (see map) to the times listed in the table below.



DNR Service Centers

Office hours may vary by location. Contact the Service Center for information on office hours.

South Central Region (Fitchburg)	608/275-3266
Madison (Central Office)	608/266-2621
Dodgeville	608/935-3368
Horicon	920/387-7860
Janesville	608/743-4800
Poynette	608/635-8110
Southeast Region (Milwaukee)	414/263-8500
Plymouth	920/892-8756
Sturtevant	262/884-2300
Waukesha	262/574-2100
Northeast Region (Green Bay)	920/662-5100
Oshkosh	920/424-3050
Peshigo	715/582-5000
Sturgeon Bay	920/746-2860
Wautoma	920/787-4686
West Central Region (Eau Claire)	715/839-3700
Baldwin	715/684-2914
Black River Falls	715/284-1400
La Crosse	608/785-9000
Wausau	715/359-4522
Wisconsin Rapids	715/421-7800
Northern Region (Spooner)	715/635-2101
Antigo	715/627-4317
Ashland	715/685-2900
Cumberland	715/822-3590
Park Falls	715/762-3204
Hayward	715/634-2688
Ladysmith	715/532-3911
Rhineland	715/365-8900
Superior	715/392-7988
Woodruff	715/356-5211

Cover Photo:

Participants in the 2005 Youth Learn to Bear Hunt Program.

"The Learn to Bear Hunt Program not only educates young hunters, it helps families and friends better understand the sport of bear hunting. In addition, the program has significant community relations benefits. With the tremendous support of the WI Bear Hunters' Association, this program is a winner all around." —Michael Zeckmeister, WI-DNR Northern Region Wildlife Program Supervisor.



*Preserving Tomorrow's
Heritage Today*

Established in 1964

The contents of this pamphlet were prepared by the Department of Natural Resources. A portion of the printing costs were paid for by the Wisconsin Bear Hunters' Association.

Wisconsin Bear Hunters' Association
N8544 Jacobson Road
Trego, WI 54888
e-mail: prbutter@spacestar.net
Visit our website at: www.wbha.org

2006

Wisconsin BEAR HUNTING Regulations



Season Dates

Zone C:

September 6 – October 10

- With aid of bait
- with other methods **not** utilizing dogs

Subzone A1, Zone A, and Zone B:

September 6 – September 12

- with aid of bait
- with other methods **not** utilizing dogs

September 13 – October 3

- with aid of dogs
- with aid of bait
- with other methods

October 4 – October 10

- with aid of dogs only

Visit the DNR website at
dnr.wi.gov



Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707

PUB-WM-197 2006

Dear Wisconsin Bear Hunter,

As a result of proper management, Wisconsin continues to have a strong and healthy black bear population. With high hunter success rates over the last few seasons, Wisconsin bear hunters are actively managing the population. When hunters meet the established bear harvest quotas, problems associated with high bear populations such as nuisance bears and agriculture damage are reduced. By reducing negative interactions, social tolerance for bears and bear hunting is increased. The Department of Natural Resources along with help from the Wisconsin Conservation Congress and the Wisconsin Bear Hunters' Association will continue to set bear harvest quotas at levels that maximize hunter opportunity while maintaining a healthy and stable bear population.

Since 2000, as we have gotten closer to established bear population goals, there has been a steady reduction in available harvest permits. In 2005 there were approximately 66,750 applicants for 4,730 Class A Licenses compared to a little over 50,000 applicants and almost 6,600 Class A Licenses available in 2000. Given the current bear population and hunter success rates, I don't expect that the number of Class A Licenses available to hunters in 2006 will change very much from the last year. Depending on the bear management zone, it will still take approximately 4 to 8 years to accumulate enough preference points to draw a Class A License.

For the 2006 bear hunting season I would like to give hunters several important reminders. First, all hunters that are drawn for a Class A License need to purchase their Class A License by August 1. Over the last few years, a number of Class A Bear Licenses have gone unsold. If you are successful in the drawing and do not purchase your Class A License by the August 1 deadline, you will lose your preference points.

Secondly, as a result of baiting and feeding rule changes over the past several years, hunters should remember that they may only place bait for bears from April 15th through the last day of the bear season, and landowners and hunters should be reminded, that feeding bears is illegal.

Next, there have been occasional problems with state licensed bear hunters assisting tribal bear hunters exercising off-reservation treaty rights. Non-tribal bear hunters may hunt with a tribal bear hunter provided both hunters possess a permit authorizing the harvest of a bear. However, non-tribal hunters should be aware that it is **not legal** to assist a tribal hunter who possesses a tribal bear permit, if the non-tribal hunter assisting with the hunt (i.e. running dogs) does not possess a valid state Class A License. If you hunt with a tribal member, please consult with your local warden on the rules and regulations governing state and tribal hunters.

And finally, if hunters experience problems with wolf depredation on bear dogs they should contact APHIS-Wildlife Services at 1-800-228-1368.

With the continued dedication of hunters and sound bear population management, we can look forward to another great season in 2006.

Best of luck this season,
Brad Koele
Assistant Big Game Specialist

Those hunters who have been drawn for a Class A bear license must purchase their license by August 1, 2006.

New for 2006

- New deadline for submitting Class A bear preference point applications is December 10, 2006.
- The no dog subzone in zone A has been eliminated.

Licenses and Permits

To apply for a Class A bear license or bear preference point for the 2007 Season

- Applicants must pay a \$3.00 application fee, complete and submit the Class A Bear Hunting License/Preference Point Application by **December 10, 2006**.
- Applicants can apply for either a preference point (*Category 1- Class A License Refusal and Preference Acceptance*) or a license (*Category 2- Receive Class A License*). If you do not plan to purchase a license, choose Category 1. **If you choose Category 2 and are selected, you will lose all preference points even if you don't purchase the Class A license.**

Class B License (Residents: \$14, Non-residents: \$110)

Formerly called a "bear pursuit" license, a Class B license is required to *assist* a Class A bear harvest license holder in hunting activities, including baiting and dog training. To *assist* with the bear hunt means helping a Class A license holder hunt bear by handling dogs, locating bear, or engaging in other bear hunting activities that enable the Class A licensee to locate bear. You do not need to be with a Class A license holder to place bait. The Class B license is required of all members of a dog training group (12 years and older) if they are handling dogs, locating bear, or assisting the dog owners in locating bear, monitoring radios, trailing, placing bait, or tracking. Persons under the age of 12 can engage in any of these activities without purchasing a license.

Class A License (Residents: \$49, Non-Residents: \$251)

Formerly called a "bear harvest permit," a Class A bear license allows the holder to shoot and tag a bear. It also includes all the privileges of a Class B bear license.

Bear Hunting Back Tag

A bear hunting Back Tag is issued to all Class A and Class B bear licensees. Back tags must be worn while hunting bear, training dogs, or assisting the holder of a Class A bear license. The back tag must be attached to the center of the back of the outermost garment where it can be clearly seen. Back tags do not have to be worn while baiting bears.

License Issuance

The number of bear licenses available per management zone is based upon previous hunter success rates and current bear population estimates.

Hunters are selected using a cumulative preference system. Applicants receive a preference point every year they apply and are not drawn for a Class A permit. Applicants with the greatest number of preference points are chosen first to receive a Class A license. Hunters must apply at least once every three years to retain their preference points.

Bear Class A License Transfer

An adult may transfer their Class A bear license to a youth ages 12–17, provided the youth successfully completes a hunter's education course prior to the bear hunting season and that the transfer takes place by **August 1**. The youth receiving the license will retain his or her accumulated preference points. A youth may only be the recipient of a transferred license once. If you wish to transfer your Class A license, please contact your local DNR service center for more information. Bear license transfer applications can be found at all DNR Service Centers or on-line at dnr.wi.gov.

Bear Hunting Management Zones

- **Hunters who apply for and receive a Class A bear license for subzone A1 may hunt only in subzone A1. Hunters who receive a Class A bear license to hunt in zone A may hunt in subzone A1 or any part of zone A.**

Zone A has been split in an effort to shift hunting pressure from the more heavily hunted portions of zone A to subzone A1, an area which has traditionally received less pressure and has had greater numbers of bear damage and nuisance complaints. Because A1 is a subzone and falls within zone A, the State Administrative Code requires that hunters with zone A licenses be allowed to also hunt in subzone A1.

Questions?

For updated season & license information call the WI DNR Hunting License & Season Information Line.

1-800-282-0367

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services, and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to Equal Opportunity Office, Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

This publication is available in alternative formats (large print, Braille, audio tape, etc) upon request. Please call 608-266-8204 for more information.



Firearm and Archery Restrictions

It is illegal to:

- Hunt bear with a .22 or 5 mm rimfire rifle, air rifle, .17 caliber center-fire rifle, .410 shotgun, fully automatic firearm, or with ammunition loaded with full metal jacket, non-expanding type bullets.
- Use handguns that are not muzzleloading handguns, unless they are loaded with centerfire cartridges of .22 caliber or larger. These handguns must have a minimum barrel length of 5 1/2 inches from the muzzle to the firing pin with the action closed.
- Use a muzzleloading handgun unless it is at least .44 caliber with a minimum barrel length of 7 inches measured from muzzle to breech and fires a single projectile weighing not less than 138 grains.
- Use a muzzleloader, unless it is a smoothbore muzzleloading firearm of .45 caliber or larger, or a rifled muzzleloading firearm of .40 caliber or larger.
- Hunt bear with a bow having a pull of less than 30 pounds, or to use arrows which have metal broadhead blades less than seven-eighths of an inch wide.
- Possess while hunting, any crossbow (except disabled residents and nonresidents under Class A, B, C or crossbow permit or residents age 65 and older) or poisoned, drugged or explosive tipped arrow.
Note: Legal crossbows shall have a minimum draw of 100 pounds, a workable safety, and use at least 14-inch long bolts or arrows equipped with broadheads.
- Possess, place or transport, in or on any moving or stationary vehicle, any firearm, bow or crossbow, unless the firearm is unloaded and enclosed within a carrying case, and the bow or crossbow is unstrung or enclosed within a carrying case.

Other Restrictions

It is illegal to:

- Shoot or molest any bear in a den, hunt bear in any dump or sanitary landfill, or kill a cub or any adult bear accompanied by a cub or cubs. (Research has provided us with a general guideline for distinguishing adult bears from cubs. **Note: State Administrative code has defined an adult bear as a bear 42 inches or greater in length, as measured in a straight line from the tip of the nose to the base of the tail.** Hunters concerned with distinguishing a cub from an adult bear should consider laying a 42 inch log next to their bait to assist in determining the size of a bear.) *If you're not sure, don't shoot!*
- Possess a bear carcass unless lawfully tagged.
- Sell, buy, trade or barter bear hides unless the claws, head and teeth are attached. Bear claws and teeth may not be sold, purchased, traded or bartered when separated from the hide. The sale of other bear parts is also prohibited.

Road Hunting

It is illegal to:

- Hunt within 50 feet of the roadway's center.
- Discharge a firearm, or shoot an arrow from a bow or a bolt from a crossbow from or across a highway or within 50 feet of the roadway's center. This prohibition applies to all public roads which are either paved or indicated on a current Department of Transportation county highway map. Unpaved fire lanes are exempt and shown as dotted lines on county maps.
Note: *Class A disabled permit holders are exempt from certain portions of this requirement when hunting from a stationary vehicle. Contact your local DNR office for more information.*

Tagging and Registration

- Immediately upon killing and before field dressing or moving the bear, you must validate the carcass tag by slitting the marks indicated on the tag. Immediately following validation, the carcass tag shall be attached to the bear at any location on the bear.
- If quartered, the carcass tag should be attached to the hide and both hide and carcass should be displayed at registration.
- Each bear must be registered within the county or adjoining county in which the bear was killed **and** within the black bear management zone or subzone in which it was killed no later than 5:00 P.M. on the day after the kill. For a list of registration stations, look on the DNR website at dnr.wi.gov.
- The person who tags the bear must keep the carcass and registration tag with the butchered meat until it is consumed.

Transport

It is illegal to:

- Transport another person's unregistered bear unless accompanied by the person who was issued the carcass tag. Once registered, anyone may transport the animal.
Note: Residents and nonresidents may transport legally possessed bear out of state provided it is registered according to the procedures outlined under "Tagging and Registration."

Support Ethical Responsible Hunting Report Violations

Call 1-800-847-9367

1-800-TIP-WDNR

Toll Free • Statewide • 24-Hour • Confidential
(This is not an information number.)

*Conservation wardens may enter private lands
while performing their duties.*

Baiting

1. Bait or feed may be placed and used for the purpose of hunting bear or training bear dogs **statewide**, except that **it is illegal for any person** to place, use, or hunt over bait or feed placed for bears:



- Beginning the day after the bear season closes and continuing through the following April 14th.
 - In excess of **10 gallons** of bait or feed at any feeding site.
 - That is **not** totally enclosed in a hollow log, a hole in the ground or stump which is capped with logs, rocks or other naturally occurring and unprocessed substances which **prevents deer from accessing the material**. Liquid scent used for hunting bear or training bear dogs does not need to be enclosed, but is part of the 10 gallon limit.
 - Unless, when the bait or feeding site is checked or re-baited, all bait that has been uncovered is again enclosed and made **inaccessible to deer**.
2. Additionally, **no person may** place, use or hunt over bait or feed that:
- Contains or is contained within metal, paper, plastic, glass, wood or other similar processed materials. This does not apply to bait or feed placed in hollow logs or stumps or to scent materials.
 - Contains any animal part or animal by-product. Animal part or by-product means honey, bones, fish, meat, solid animal fat, animal carcass or parts of animal carcasses, but does not include liquid scents or cheese.
 - Is located within 50 yards of any trail, road or campsite used by the public, or within 100 yards from a roadway having a posted limit of 45 miles per hour or more.
 - Is contained in or deposited by a feeder that is designed to deposit or replenish bait or feed automatically, mechanically, or by gravity.

3. **No person may hunt over** bait or feed material for bear without possessing a valid unused Class A bear license and carcass tag.

4. **No person may place** bait or feed material for bear hunting without possessing a valid Class A or Class B bear license.

5. **No person may** hunt or train dogs over bait or a feeding site that is in violation of these regulations, unless the area is completely free of bait or feed material at least 10 consecutive days prior to hunting, pursuing animals or dog training.

Note: You may hunt over material deposited by natural vegetation or found solely as a result of normal agricultural practices. *Removal of unlawfully placed bait or feed material does not preclude the issuance of a citation for the original placement of the unlawful baiting or feeding material.*

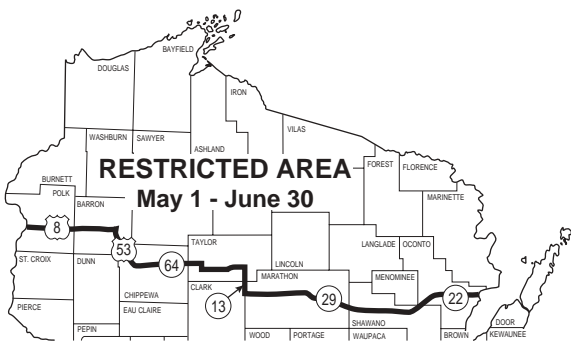
Dog Training and Use

It is illegal to:

- Hunt bear with dogs, except in subzone A1, Zone A, and Zone B of the bear hunting management zones map during the season for dogs.
- Train dogs by pursuing bear **except** from **July 1 through August 31**. Bear dog training is not permitted during the bear hunting season.
- Train dogs on DNR lands, from April 15 through July 31, unless the dog is on a leash no longer than 8 feet, except on Class 1 field trial grounds or for bear dog training on DNR lands other than state parks after June 30.
- Hunt or train dogs unless one person in the group has on their person rabies tags or dog license tags for each dog.
- Hunt, train dogs, or pursue bear with a dog that is not tattooed, or that isn't wearing a collar with the owner's name and address attached.
- Allow the dogs to kill any wild animal.
- Hunt, train dogs, or pursue bear with more than 6 dogs in a single pack, regardless of the number of bear hunters or the dog's ownership.

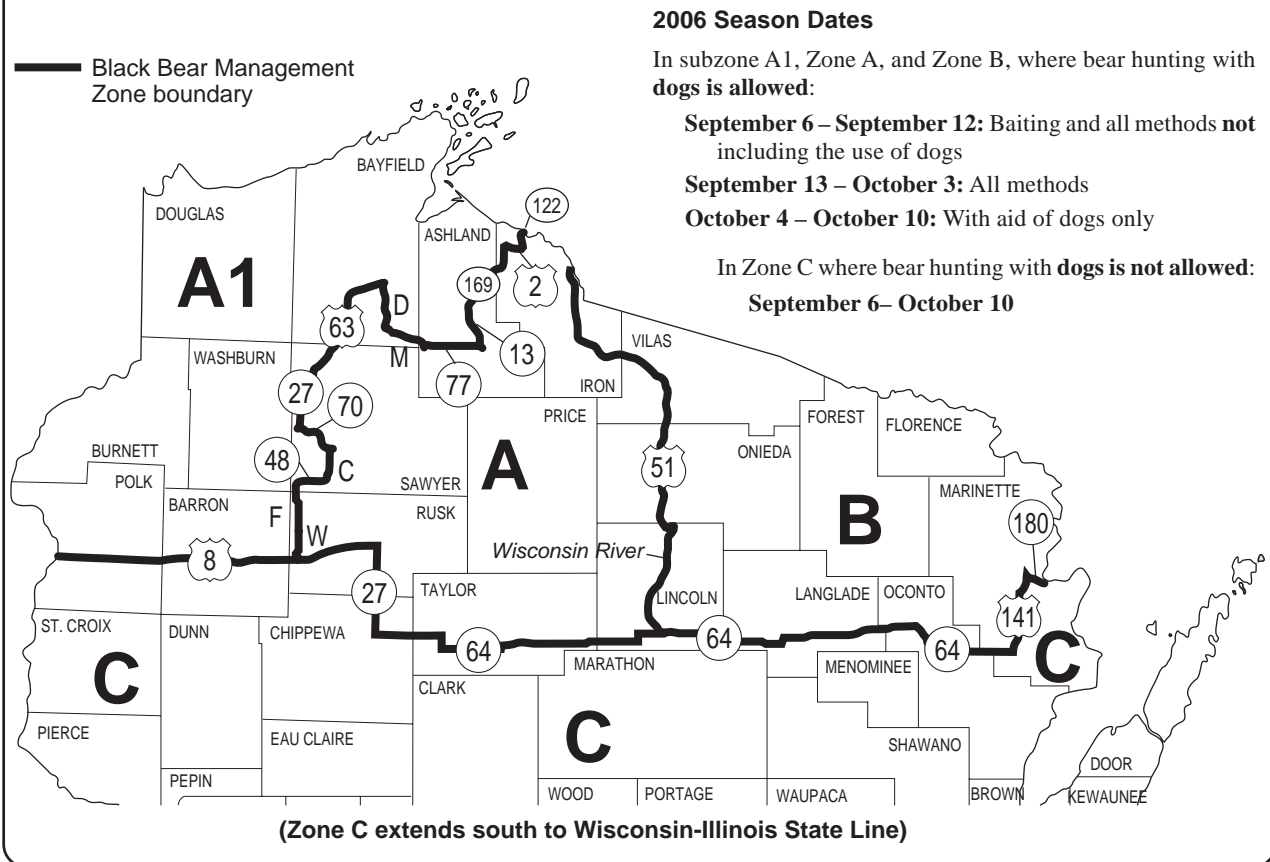
Note: Dogs may be replaced that fall out of the chase, but no more than 6 dogs may be used to pursue bear regardless of the number of bear hunters and regardless of the dog ownership.

- Hunt or pursue any free-roaming wild animal with the aid of any dog, from May 1 to June 30, north of the highways shown on the map below, except for approved dog trials and training on free-roaming rabbits or raccoons under a hound dog trial or training license.



If not in possession of a Class A bear hunting license, a Class B license is required of all members of a dog training group (12 years and older) if they are handling dogs, locating bear, or assisting the dog owners in locating a bear, monitoring radios, trailing, or tracking. Persons under the age of 12 can engage in any of these activities without purchasing a license.

Bear Hunting Management Zones Map



Bear Population and Harvest Trends: 1988—2005

